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SACRAMENTO MAN PLEADED GUILTY TO AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT AND CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Defendant Possessed More than 1,500 Credit Card Numbers and Driver's Licenses

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and United States Secret Service Special Agent-in-Charge Jean Mitchell announced today that MICHAEL McCORMICK, 29, of Sacramento, Calif., pleaded guilty to aggravated identity theft and credit card fraud before United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell Jr.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the United States Secret Service and the Sacramento Police Department. The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office cooperated in the prosecution of this case.

In May 2006, President Bush signed an Executive Order creating the first ever "Identity Theft Task Force" to help law enforcement investigate and prosecute identity theft cases, such as the fraud involving McCORMICK. The United States Attorney's Office aggressively pursues identity thieves and works with law enforcement to break up criminal rings which jeopardize our financial security.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor, who is prosecuting the case, McCORMICK admitted in court to participating in a complex credit card fraud and identity theft scheme. He was arrested in a hotel room where he was carrying out the fraud. The defendant's computer, which was seized by law enforcement, contained thousands of credit cards and credit card numbers, driver's licenses, and other personal identification information, including the names, addresses, and phone numbers of third parties. Law enforcement also recovered approximately 72 driver's licenses, 17 credit/gift cards, and a black plastic file box containing files, receipts and evidence of fraud. Additionally, McCORMICK had in his possession five California driver's licenses with his photo, but the name and personal information of third parties. On the wall were "work sheets" containing fraudulently obtained financial and identification information, as well as information on how to commit credit card fraud. The defendant used the unlawfully obtained credit cards to make fraudulent purchases totaling more than \$1,000, including renting hotel rooms and making online purchases.

The credit card fraud offense carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. The aggravated identity theft provision provides for a mandatory minimum of two years in prison, consecutive to any sentence imposed by the court. In addition, the defendant will be ordered to make restitution.

McCORMICK is scheduled for sentencing on December 12, 2008.

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